

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1           1.       A shoe outsole comprising:  
2               a member having an upper surface, a lower surface and a heel section, the member  
3 further having an aperture in the heel section extending from the upper surface to the lower  
4 surface; and  
5               a resilient, flexible first cushion disposed on the upper surface of the member in the  
6 heel section, the first cushion being shaped to protrude through the aperture.
- 1           2.       The shoe outsole according to claim 1 wherein the member comprises rubber.
- 1           3.       The shoe outsole according to claim 1 wherein the member comprises a  
2 thermoplastic resin.
- 1           4.       The shoe outsole according to claim 1 wherein the member is formed by  
2 molding.
- 1           5.       The shoe outsole according to claim 1 wherein the lower surface of the  
2 member has a groove formed therein to enhance the flexibility of the member.
- 1           6.       The shoe outsole according to claim 5 wherein the member has a width, and  
2 the groove substantially traverses the width of the member.
- 1           7.       The shoe outsole according to claim 5 wherein the member has a perimeter,  
2 and the groove has a closed-loop shape substantially parallel to the perimeter of the member.
- 1           8.       The shoe outsole according to claim 5 wherein the groove has a substantially  
2 semi-circular shape.
- 1           9.       The shoe outsole according to claim 1 wherein the lower surface of the  
2 member has a grid pattern formed therein to enhance the flexibility of the member.

1           10.     The shoe outsole according to claim 1 wherein the upper surface of the  
2     member has a grid pattern formed therein to enhance the flexibility of the member.

1           11.     The shoe outsole according to claim 1 wherein the first cushion includes a  
2     protrusion that protrudes through the aperture.

1           12.     The shoe outsole according to claim 1 wherein the first cushion comprises a  
2     polymeric gelatinous material

1           13.     The shoe outsole according to claim 1 wherein the first cushion further  
2     comprises a flexible, resilient sheet.

1           14.     The shoe outsole according to claim 13 wherein the sheet comprises  
2     polyurethane.

1           15.     The shoe outsole according to claim 1 wherein the upper surface of the  
2     member includes a recessed area for receiving the first cushion.

1           16.     The shoe outsole according to claim 1 wherein the lower surface further  
2     includes a recessed portion disposed around the aperture.

1           17.     The shoe outsole according to claim 1 wherein the member includes a  
2     plurality of apertures.

1           18.     The shoe outsole according to claim 1 wherein the member further comprises  
2     a sidewall along the heel section of the member, the sidewall including a cut-out portion.

1           19.     The shoe outsole according to claim 18 wherein the cut-out portion is a slit.

1           20.     The shoe outsole according to claim 18 further comprising  
2     a second cushion disposed in the member adjacent to the cut-out portion.

1           21.     The shoe outsole according to claim 20 wherein the second cushion is capable  
2 of protruding through the cut-out portion.

1           22.     A shoe outsole comprising:  
2           a member having an upper surface, a lower surface, a heel section, and a sidewall  
3 along the heel section, the member further having an aperture in the heel section extending  
4 from the upper surface to the lower surface and a cut-out portion in the sidewall; and  
5           a resilient, flexible cushion disposed on the upper surface of the member in the heel  
6 section, the cushion being shaped to protrude through the aperture and to protrude through  
7 the cut-out portion.

1           23.     The shoe outsole according to claim 22 wherein the first cushion includes a  
2 protrusion that protrudes through the aperture.

1           24.     A shoe comprising:  
2           an upper; and  
3           and outsole permanently fixed to the upper, the outsole including  
4           a member having an upper surface, a lower surface and a heel section, the member  
5 further having an aperture in the heel section extending from the upper surface to the lower  
6 surface; and  
7           a resilient, flexible cushion disposed on the upper surface of the member in the heel  
8 section, the cushion being shaped to protrude through the aperture.

1           25.     The shoe according to claim 24 wherein the first cushion includes a protrusion  
2 that protrudes through the aperture.